

## ***Memo***

*To: Event Organizer*

*From: Dallis Polk, Event Coordinator*

*Re: **Williamson County Outdoor Warning System***

*Date: November 6, 2006*

As part of the **Williamson County Outdoor Warning System**, a pole will be erected with what looks like frisbees attached to the top of it at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park. The frisbee type attachments actually house loud speakers that are mounted inside. The Williamson County Department of Emergency Communications in cooperation with Emergency Management coordinates the Outdoor Warning System (OWS). The Department of Emergency Communications personnel are responsible for the operation of the OWS. These sirens are most commonly used to alert citizens of the issuance of a Tornado Warning by the National Weather Service. However, these sirens may also be used to alert citizens to hazardous materials releases or other situations requiring immediate notification and warning.

WHEN YOU HEAR A SIREN - A steady five minute tone indicates that the OWS has been activated to notify and warn citizens that an emergency exists. Upon hearing the siren, citizens should immediately tune to local television and radio to learn the specifics of the emergency and what actions should be taken.

THE OWS will not be reactivated for the same incident and it will not be activated for an all clear. To receive all clear information, you should monitor commercial radio, National Weather Service and local network television stations.

TESTING - Once the system is up and running, testing will be conducted on the **FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:00 PM**. If severe weather appears imminent during a scheduled test time, the test will be postponed until the next day. All tests of the OWS shall consist of an alert signal sounded for 1 minute. During emergencies don't rely on only one form of emergency notification. One of the best ways to receive emergency notifications is with NOAA weather radio receivers. For more information on the system, please visit [www.williamson911.org](http://www.williamson911.org).